(a) whether it is a fact that settlement of death claims take very long time in the Postal Lif Insurance Scheme; and

(b) the target period for settlement of each such claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS ANI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Death claim received with complete papers and where no investigations into the *bona fide* of the claim are required, are settled well with in the target time.

(b) Target period for settlement of such claims is 60 days, after receipt of complete paper and where no further investigation into the *bona fide* of the case is required.

Spectrum allotment to PSUs and Government departments

1027. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS ANI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has proposed to enforce more accountability on the spectrum allotted to PSUs and Government departments at nc cost or very low cost;

(b) whether TRAI has observed that spectrum allotted to PSUs and Governmen undertakings are not fully utilized and remain idle; and

(c) whether TRAI has proposed that spectrum capacity vacated by PSUs and Governmen departments can better be utilized for commercial telephony and wireless broadband services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) TRAI in its recent recommendations on "Review of license terms and conditions and capping of number of access providers" dated August 28, 2007 has observed, among others, that presently, large parts of the spectrum have been set aside for use by public sector (*e.g.* Government departments, state-owned enterprises, Military). Subjecting public spectrum use to market discipline can result in widespread efficiency gains within and beyond the public sector, etc. Further, TRAI in its recommendation dated 27 September, 2006 has also recommended that some of the spectrum bands may be refarmed/vacated from incumbent users of PSUs and Government departments for mobile telephony and Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) Services.

International Money Order Scheme

1028. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to introduce International Money Order Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Department of Posts

ffers International Money Order Service with various countries for several years now and has arrangements to receive money orders from 27 countries for payment in India. Outward ıoney orders service is available for Nepal and Bhutan only.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

BSNL expansion plan

1029. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND NFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in carrying out BSNL expansion plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its report has pointed ıut that BSNL failed to select the suppliers for a major expansion of cellular mobile telephone ervice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by BSNL to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND NFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. BSNL has ıeen continuously expanding its telecom network. However, there is some delay in expansion ıf GSM mobile service and Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX). The reasons are detailed ıelow:

(i) Procurement of GSM Mobile Equipment—The procurement process for major expansion plan has been delayed by about 6 months due to filling of court case by one of the bidders against its disqualification.

(ii) Procurement of TAX Equipment—Earlier BSNL was deploying Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) TAX Equipment. With the fast changes in technology, Next Generation Network (NGN) has been planned for induction in place of TDM TAX during 2007-08. Since NGN is a new technology, vendors/manufacturers supplying this equipment have yet to obtain technology approval in India. Therefore, there is some delay in expansion of TAX network.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CAG has observed that there were delays at every stage of finalization ıf the tender of procurement of GSM Mobile Equipment. They have further observed that lue to delays there has been loss of opportunity of adding subscribers to the network.

(e) The procurement process of GSM Mobile Equipment has since been concluded with ıcceptance of Advance Purchase Order (APO) by the L-1 bidder and the capacities are ;xpected to be progressively available form last quarter of this financial year.

Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

1030. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 30,000 villages in the State of Andhra Pradesh do not have Post Offices;